Findings of Charar Incident

*63. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states:

(a) what are the findings of the All Party Delegation which had visited Charar-e-Sharief in May, 1995;

(b) what action has been taken subsequent to the visit of the delegation on the basis of their suggestions; and

(c) what steps are being taken to see that incidents like Charar are not repeated?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) A 22 Member all-party Parliamentary delegation, with Members from both the Houses, on May 20, 1995 visited Charar-e-Sharief in Kashmir, where the 535 year old shrine of the Sufi Saint, Shaikh Nuruddin Noorani, was gutted in the early hours of May 11. During their visit to Chrar-e-Sharief, the delegation saw the shrine in ruins and the large number of dwelling houses destroyed in fire. They felt relieved to see that the hallowed grave of the great saint intact. Lt. General (Retd.) M.A. Zaki, Advisor to the Governor, who accompanied the delegation, and the B.S.F. officials explained to the delegation the background to the unfortunate event and how the terrorists, including many foreign mercenaries, indulged in wanton destruction of houses and sacrilege of the holy shrine. As the delegation approached the damaged shrine and paid their homage to the great saint, who is revered by all communities, about a thousand local residents gathered at the site and raised slogans demanding full compensation for the losses suffered by them and for rebuilding their houses. Many of them, in groups, gave to the delegation members their version of the incidents which occurred in the village between May 8 and 11. While some blamed the security forces for allowing the situation to deteriorate, others held the authorities responsible for letting the extremists escape. The delegation heard the agitated villagers with patience and assured them that the Government would be urged by them to render immediate and liberal assistance to the affected people. After returning to Srinagar from Chrar-e-Sharief, the delegation met the State Governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, who briefed them on the current political and law and order situation in the State as well as employment generation schemes. When questioned by the delegation about the alleged inaction of the authorities in foreseeing and forestalling the happenings at Chrar-e-Sharief, the Governor replied that after successfully tackling a similar situation at Hazratbal sometime ago, the Government wanted to wear the extremists out and did not want to precipitate matters. He gave details of the administrative and other measures taken by the State Government to redress to grievances of the people and restore normalcy. He said that the Government had already sanctioned a compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs to each affected family. The Governor also expressed his confidence that elections could be conducted to the State Assembly before the expiry of the President's rule. Later, the delegation members had a dialogue with leaders of some political parties of Jammu & Kashmir. Among those who met the delegation were; Dr. Mustafa Kamal, Mr. Shafi Bhatt (Ex-MP) and Mir Akhoon of National Conference, Mian Bashir, Mian Altaf and Mr. Rafiq Sadiq of Congress (I). Mr. Abdul Qayoom of Janta Dal and Mr. A.R. Takroo of C.P.I. All these leaders blamed the extremists for occupying Chrar-e-Sharief. They also

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Smt. Basanti Sarma.

criticised the Administration for not anticipating the events and demanded an impartial inquiry. Most of the parties, while giving varied opinion about the proposed elections, wanted the Centre to spell out the economic and political package as a prelude to the elections. The delegation returned to Delhi later in the evening.

(b) Assessment of losses has since been completed by a committee constituted by the State Government and so far Rs. 14.50 crores has been sanctioned and disbursed as final ex-gratia relief to the fire sufferers. This is in addition to the Rs. 1.02 crores sanctioned earlier as interim relief @ Rs. 10,000/- per affected family. All public utilities including water and electricity, educational institutions, hospitals and dispensaries etc. have been restored completely. Building construction material like timber, cement, GC sheets and Tor steel have been made available at Government depots opened in the town itself.

(c) The State Government has taken necessary steps to ensure that religious places in the State are provided adequate reasonable security cover. Pickets manned by security forces have been established at all important places considered vulnerable and patrolling has been intensified.

SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Sir, at the very outset, I would like to state that I have myself been a victim of terrorism. I condemn these incidents vehemently and my heart felt sympathies for those affected by such heinous crimes. Sir, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir had announced a compensation of Rs. 2.00 lakhs for each affected family. My first question is this. How many families were affected, how many families have got the compensation and how many families are yet to get the compensation?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: As on 31.7.1995, ex-gratia relief has been sanctioned in respect of 865 cases structures, involving Rs. 14.50 crores. Disbursement of Rs. 11.66 crores has been made in 649 cases.

SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Sir, when the 22 Member delegation visited the Charar-e-Sharief, they saw hundreds of houses gutted in fire. I would like to know whether the house-building activity has resumed. In total, how many houses were gutted in fire and how many have been rebuilt? I would also like to know whether the houses have to be built by the families from this compensation amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs or the Government will be separately helping them for house-building activities.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the total number of houses which were gutted in fire will be about 800 and odd and the amount of relief which has been given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is Rs. 1.00 lakh per house, so also the additional amount which is 50% of the total loss of Rs. 1.00 lakh, whichever is less, is also sanctioned by the J&K Government. The amount has been placed at their disposal. I can't possibly say as to how many have actually started. It will be difficult for me to say.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, there are reports that Major Mast Gul received a hero's welcome in Peshawar. He was openly claimed the responsibility for burning the Charar-e-Sharief. Sir, when the all-party delegation had gone to Charar, I was a part of that delegation, most of the residents felt, and they were telling us, that the Army had burnt the Shrine by spraying gun powder from helicopters and planes. Now that Mast Gul has claimed the responsibility — it has appeared everywhere that he has received a hero's welcome — what has the Government done to make the people in Charar realise that it was not the Army which has done this, but it is only Mast Gul who has done this?

The part (b) of my supplementary is this: Who is this Mast Gul? Is he a Pakistani or an Afghan mercenary

because, we remember having been told that he is a Pakistani, born in some village in Pakistan and somewhere in reply to a Starred Question Number 68, it is said that he is an Afghan mercenary. So, who, actually, this Mast Gul is?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, almost every citizen of that area is aware of the fact that the Army personnel were almost one-and-a-half kilometres away from the Shrine and the question of their burning the Shrine does not arise. Everybody is fully convinced about this aspect and I don't think that any additional information needs to be supplied to the citizens of that area. Sir, so far as the nationality of Mast Gul is concerned, as per the information of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, he is a Pakistani national.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What about the claim of Mast Gul that he is responsible for the burning of the Charar-e-Sharief? Why don't you highlight it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It should be brought to the notice of the people there.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: सभापति महोदय, श्रीमन् इस वक्तव्य में एक जगह यह कहा गया है गवर्नर साहब ने बताया, उत्तर दिया कि कुछ समय पहले हजरतबल में एक ऐसी ही घटना से सफलतापूर्वक निपटने के बाद सरकार उग्रवादियों को थका कर बाहर निकालना चाहती थी। स्मरण होगा कि बाकायदा उस समय समझौता किया गया था और उनको खुला रास्ता दिया गया था हज़रतबल से पाकिस्तान निकल जाने का। गवर्नर साहब का जवाब यह बताता है कि इसी प्रकार की स्थिति पैदा करना चाहते थे और वह हुई नहीं। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मस्त गुल या जो उनके साथी थे उन्होंने क्या कोई शर्तें रखी थी चरार-ए-शरीफ को बगैर जलाए निकल जाने के लिए और अगर शर्तें रखी थी तो वह क्यों नहीं मानी गई और सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाया? मस्त गुल का दावा यह है कि वह निकल गया और सेना के लोग वहां मौजूद थे लेकिन वह निकल गया। इन दो बयानों से सिद्ध होता है कि मस्त गुल सरकार की सहमति से निकल कर गया। इसी के साथ जुड़ा सवाल है। जिक्कर साहब ने ठीक कहा था कि वहां के लोगों ने यह कहा कि मानों सेना के लोगों ने आग लगाई थी जो गलत था। ऐसी भीड़ ने जिसने यह झूठे आरोप लगाए और बाद में सारी बातें की इस प्रकार की भीड़ के नेताओं जो हिन्दुस्तान के पक्ष में नहीं थे के विरुद्ध आपने क्या कार्यवाही की? इन घटनाओं के बाद उन्होंने हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ झूठ बोला तो आपने आज तक क्या कार्यवाही की? यह नेता लोग पाकिस्तान के समर्थक थे अथवा मस्त गुल के साथी थे। मेरा सीधा प्रश्न है नम्बर एक उन्होंने चरार-ए-शरीफ से निकल जाएंगे इसके लिए उन्होंने क्या कंडीशंस रखी थी और वह क्यों निकल कर गया और जो लोग धोखा दे रहे थे, झूठ बोल रहे थे, हमारी आर्मी के खिलाफ आरोप लगा रहे थे उनके नेताओं के खिलाफ आपने क्या कार्यवाही की?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the information given by the Jammu and Kashmir Government is concerned, actually, no condition was placed by them. It was the Jammu and Kashmir Government itself which had offered that because we were more interested in saving the Shrine.

That is why it was offered to them that if they want to go across the border, certainly, they would be allowed a safe passage, but they should not do any kind of damage to the shrine.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: मैंने पूछा था कि भीड़ के जिन नेताओं ने आरोप लगाया था उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की आपने? They were terrorists. What action has been taken?

सैयद सिब्ते रज़ी: क्या सरकार के ज्ञान में यह बात है कि हमारी फौजों ने चरार-ए-शरीफ के जलाने में कुछ अपना रोल अदा किया है, यह भ्रम बी०बी०सी० की एक न्यूज आइटम से था। चेचनिया का वहां पर जो मिलिटरी एक्शन हो रहा था इस बारे में जो क्लिपिंग थी वह हिन्दुस्तान के चरार-ए-शरीफ के वाक्या से जोड़ कर प्रदर्शित कर दी गई और इस की वजह से चारों तरफ यह भ्रम फैल गया कि हमारी फौजों ने ऐसा किया है जबकि बिल्कुल ऐसा नहीं था। यदि सरकार को इस बात का ज्ञान है तो बी०बी०सी० के खिलाफ इस संबंध में सरकार ने अब तक कोई कार्रवाई की है या नहीं? अगर नहीं तो क्या कोई कार्रवाई कराने का प्रस्ताव है? दूसरी बात यह है कि सरकार ने चरार-ए-शरीफ जलने के बाद

इस बात की घोषणा की थी कि चरार-ए-शरीफ का निर्माण सरकार करायेगी। मैं इस संबंध में गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या चरार-ए-शरीफ दरगाह बनाये जाने के संबंध में कोई योजना सरकार ने बनाई है? यदि बनाई है तो उसका क्रियान्वयन कब तक होने जा रहा है?

†[سید مسعود رضی: کیا سرکار کے گیان میں یہ بات ہے کہ ہماری فوجوں نے چرار شریف کے جلانے میں کچھ اپنا رول ادا کیا ہے - یہ پورا بی - بی - سی - کی ایک نیوز آئٹم سے تھا - چیچنیا کا وہاں پر جو ملٹری ایکشن ہو رہا تھا اس بارے میں جو کلپنگ تھی وہ ہندوستان کے چرار شریف کے واقعہ سے جوڑ کر پروڈکشن کر دی گئی اور اسکی وجہ سے چاروں طرف یہ پورا پھیل گیا کہ ہماری فوجوں نے ایسا کیا ہے جبکہ بالکل ایسا نہیں تھا - یدی سرکار کو اس بات کا گیا ہے - تو - بی - بی سی - کے خلاف اس سمبندھ میں سرکار نے اب تک کوئی کارروائی کی ہے یا نہیں - اگر نہیں تو کیا کوئی کارروائی کرانے کا پرستاؤ ہے - دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ سرکار نے چرار شریف جلنے کے بعد اس بات کی گھوشنا کی تھی کہ چرار شریف کا نرمان سرکار کرائیگی میں اس سمبندھ میں گرہ منتری جی سے جاننا چاہونگا کہ کیا چرار شریف درگاہ بنائے جانے کے سمبندھ میں کوئی یوجنا سرکار نے بنائی ہے - یدی بنائی ہے تو اسکا کریانوین کب تک ہونے جا رہا ہے -]

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, in fact, this matter was taken up at the diplomatic level. I had also personally discussed this matter with Mr. Douglas Hurd, the then Foreign Secretary, when he came to see me. I had brought to his notice that there had been a total confusion in the BBC. Some pictures were connected with the incidents happening in Chechnya. It was actually shown that this was the part played by the Army, which, in fact, was mainly responsible for this kind of confusion in the international community. Mr. Hurd told me, "I understand your difficulty. But you do not know what our difficulty is, because it is a totally autonomous Corporation. But, certainly, this message will be conveyed to the Prime Minister." That is what he told.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि आपको याद होगा इसी तरह का सर्वदलीय पार्लियामेंटरी डेलीगेशन 1990 में भी गया था देवी लाल जी की अध्यक्षता में और राजीव गांधी जी उस डेलीगेशन का हिस्सा थे। उनका सबसे बड़ा आरोप यह था कि जगमोहन साहब न तो एयरपोर्ट पर उस डेलीगेशन को रिसीव करने के लिए आये और न उनका व्यवहार ठीक था। यह डेलीगेशन जब गया तो इसके साथ वहां के गवर्नर साहब ने चरार-ए-शरीफ जाने की जरूरत नहीं समझी, न उन्होंने कोशिश की और न उन्होंने कहा कि हम जाना चाहते हैं। मैं आप से पूछना चाहूंगा कि जब ऐसा देश में माहौल है और जम्मू-कश्मीर करीब-करीब इस देश से कटा हुआ एक हिस्सा सा है, लोग आ जा नहीं सकते और जो लोग यहां से गये थे पार्लियामेंटरी डेलीगेशन के रूप में वह सारे देश के तमाम लोगों के समूह के रूप में गया था ऐसे मौके पर गवर्नर साहब का चरार-ए-शरीफ जाना मुनासिब था या नहीं? इसी का दूसरा हिस्सा यह है कि क्या गवर्नर साहब ने यह राय दी है कि अगले प्रेजीडेंट रूल के खत्म होने तक हम चुनाव करा देंगे? यह डेलीगेशन ने लौटकर बताया है। कृपया इन बातों पर आप अपनी राय देने का कष्ट करें?

श्री एस०बी० चव्हाण: पहले के बारे में प्रोपराइटी

की बात जरूर कहूंगा। अच्छा होता अगर गवर्नर साहब रिसीव करने के लिए एयरपोर्ट जाते। लेकिन उनका वहां आना जरूरी है या नहीं इसके बारे में मैं अपनी राय नहीं देना चाहूंगा। जहां तक इलेक्शन की बात उन्होंने कही है गवर्नमेंट का कमिटमैंट है हम जरूर प्रेजीडेंट रूल का पीरियड खत्म होने से पहले वहां पर इलेक्शन कराना चाहते हैं।

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I would like to repeat ..*(Interruptions)*.. I would repeat that what he has said is not correct. Anyhow, my question is different. ..*(Interruptions)*.. It is not correct. The point is that a parliamentary delegation which came on that day was not a parliamentary delegation. It was an all-party delegation and the information was conveyed to the Governor much later when the plane had actually landed. And it was not known as to what the composition of that party was. And, according to the Government's own instruction, the Governors were not required to go to the airport to receive the delegation. Shri Rajiv Gandhi might have done it, but that is his personal thing. I do not want to comment upon it. That is not the issue. My question is different. I do not want to go into that. My question is, as far back as 1986, a redevelopment plan had been drawn up in Charar-e-Sharief. This redevelopment plan envisaged relocation of houses and buildings which are presently in close proximity to this Shrine and which are otherwise a threat to the security. And I had persuaded those people to get the houses located elsewhere so that a very beautiful garden could be developed or an open space and a tranquil atmosphere brought about in the memory of the saint, who preaches that there is God in every blade of grass, and a proper environment could be built up. Unfortunately, that was not carried out subsequently. Now that the tragedy has happened and the houses have been burnt, would the Government kindly consider implementing that redevelopment plan and have at least a good environment and open space around the complex so that it gives a total lift-up to the site. The people would be happy, the followers of Nand Rishi would be happy and we will have more and more people coming as they now come to the Vaishnodevi Shrine. It will boost the economic development of the area. When more people come, they have to stay somewhere and they need accommodation and transport demands also increase. So, it will have a multiplier effect. Will the Government be able to take advantage of this tragedy in the sense that since it has happened and something more beneficial and lasting could be achieved out of it? Thank you.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am in full agreement with what the hon. Member is saying and we have also provided for financial incentives besides relief and rehabilitation grants which are given to them. Additional amount will be given if they have to go to a particular place so that we are able to decongest the area and attract more tourists in such a fashion that all the facilities would be provided to all of them.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, I was a Member of the delegation which visited that place. I found and heard all the people whom I talked with. They have serious doubts that the police and the military had some kind of involvement in this burning of the mosque. But the main point I am asking is that the Government has to make it clear to the people that, firstly, some extremists were responsible for the crime and, secondly, when we had a discussion with the political parties and the Governor, everybody wanted that a political package from the Government of India should come so that the confidence of the people can be restored and a new situation can be created. Now, everybody doubts everybody else, especially the administration is not being believed by a large majority of the people. So, two things should be done, according to me. One, a scheme should be evolved by the Government for rebuilding the mosque at the earliest possible time. Secondly, a

political package, which the Government of India was talking about, should be presented immediately to change the situation. Will you do that?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: As far as the first part is concerned, it makes a world of difference when questions are asked in the presence of some of the militants who might be in the crowd. And if the militants are not there totting their guns, then you get a totally different kind of version. But, at the same time, I have no objection to the suggestion of the hon. Member that all the people in that area need to be informed and that this is the exact position. The army has nothing to do with it. It was the militants who were responsible for burning of the shrine, and that aspect certainly should be looked into. About the other thing which the hon. Member is asking, I do not think that I am in a position to say as to whether it should be before the elections or after the elections.

If any kind of package needs to be offered to them, what the proper time is, I cannot possibly say. When the Prime Minister comes back, I will definitely convey this to him.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: चेयरमैन साहब, अभी सरकार ने यह ख्याल जाहिर किया है कि चरारे शरीफ को नुकसान न पहुंचे इस मामले में सरकार बहुत कन्सर्ड थी...**(व्यवधान)** अब अपने इस कन्सर्न को अमल में लाने के लिए हमारे सिक्योरिटी फोर्सेज डेढ़-दो किलोमीटर दूर बैठी थीं—

"कौन मझधार में जाए सरे साहिल बैठे हैं,
दूर से डूबनेवालों को तमाशा देखें"

यह तरीका था हमारा चरारे शरीफ की हिफाजत करने का। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि चरारे शरीफ की हिफाजत के लिए क्या सरकार ने यह सोचा था कि जब मिलिटेंट्स उस दरगाह में दाखिल हुए थे तो हमको अंदर दाखिल होकर मिलिटेंट्स को जो कि उस दरगाह की बेहुरमती कर रहे थे, हथियार लेकर अंदर गए थे, बाहर निकालना चाहिए? क्या हमने फौरन कोशिश की कि हम खुद दरगाह में जाकर मिलिटेंट्स को बाहर निकालें?

†[]شری سکندر بخت: چیرمین صاحب۔
ابھی سرکار نے یہ خیال ظاہر کیا ہے کہ چرار
شریف کو نقصان نہ پہونچے اس معاملے
میں سرکار بہت کنسرنڈ تھی۔ "مداخلت"
اب اپنے اس کنسرن کو عمل میں لانے کیلئے
ہماری سیکیورٹی فورسیز ڈیڑھ دو
کلومیٹر دور بیٹھی تھیں۔
کون منجدھار میں آئے سر ساحل بیٹھیں
دور سے ڈوبنے والوں کا تماشہ دیکھیں
یہ طریقہ تھا ہمارا چرار شریف کی حفاظت
کرنے کا۔ میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں
کہ چرار شریف کی حفاظت کیلئے کیا سرکار
نے یہ سوچا تھا کہ جب ملیٹینٹس اس
درگاہ میں داخل ہوئے تھے تو ہمکو اندر
داخل ہوکر ملیٹینٹس کو جو کہ اس درگاہ
کی بیحرمتی کر رہے تھے ہتھیار لیکر اندر گئے
تھے۔ باہر نکالنا چاہیئے۔ کیا ہم نے فوراً
کوشش کی کہ ہم خود درگاہ میں جاکر
ملیٹینٹس کو باہر نکالیں۔

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, this is a delicate issue which the hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking me. But it is very difficult to find out when they go for pilgrimage as to who is a militant and who is not. In the crowd, if he goes inside, and in search of that person, if the Army or the paramilitary forces enter the shrine, then it might create a situation which, in fact, we would like to avoid.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: पिलिग्रिम्स क्या हथियार लेकर जाते हैं पिलिग्रिमेज के लिए?

†[]شری سکندر بخت: پلگرمس کیا ہتھیار
لیکر جاتے پلگریمیج کیلئے؟

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सभापति जी, इस मनहूस और दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना पर इस सदन में बहुत बहस हो चुकी है। उस समय हम लोगों ने गुस्से में शायद या

†[]Transliteration in Arabic Script.

जानबूझकर आरोप लगाए थे कि इस सरकार के निकम्मेपन के कारण यह हुआ। इस सरकार के एक मंत्री ने यहां तक कह दिया कि चरारे शरीफ के बदले पाकिस्तान पर हमला कर देना चाहिए। लेकिन जो प्रतिनिधिमंडल वहां गया था संसद का उसके सामने राज्यपाल महोदय ने कुछ बातें कही थीं। मैं चाहूंगा कि गृह मंत्री जी उनको पढ़ें। उन्होंने कहा था कि उन सबको थकाने के लिए यह प्रक्रिया अख्तियार की गयी कि थककर उग्रवादी चरारे शरीफ से बाहर चले आएं। उस थकान को ही हम अपनी रणनीति मानते रहे। हमने इसलिए कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की। वह श्रेयस्कर नहीं था। यह अपने आप में बताता है कि सरकार की रणनीति फेल हो गयी। राज्यपाल वहां प्रशासन चलाता है। गृह मंत्रालय सीधे जिम्मेवारी लेता है। वहां के लोगों ने भी प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कहा कि सरकार को इस तरह की घटना का पूर्वानुमान नहीं था। यह सरकार पर निकम्मेपन का आरोप है। ऐसी हालत में क्या गृह मंत्रालय सीधे-सीधे जिम्मेवारी लेगा? या प्रधान मंत्री का कार्यालय इस घटना के लिए सीधे सीधे इस घटना की जिम्मेदारी लेगा? सरकार सीधे-सीधे इस घटना की जिम्मेवारी लेगी और हमारे राष्ट्र की छवि अल्पसंख्यकों और धार्मिक स्थानों के बारे में जो गंदी हुई है उस छवि को साफ करने के लिए राष्ट्र और दुनिया के सामने क्षमायाचना करेगी?

श्री एस०बी० चव्हाण: इसके अंदर कोई क्षमायाचना की बात करने की आवश्यकता है ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूं। एक मरतबा जो स्ट्रेटेजी कामयाब हुई, दूसरी मरतबा वह फेल हो गयी यह बात तो सच है...

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: स्ट्रेटेजी कामयाब नहीं हुई तो जिम्मेवारी किसकी है? आपकी है, सरकार की है।

श्री एस०बी० चव्हाण: यह सारी स्ट्रेटेजी हमने तय की थी। लेकिन इस सारी तफसील में आज जाना मेरे लिए मुनासिब नहीं होगा। जब प्राइम मिनिस्टर आएंगे and he will be the total authority to decide as to who is responsible for this, and take action against them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 64.

Minimum consumption expenditure

*64. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's estimates, minimum consumption expenditure for living a standard life above poverty line is fixed at Rs.11,000 per annum for rural areas and Rs.11,800 for urban areas;

(b) if so, the minimum consumption requirement for a three unit family;

(c) whether the minimum wage of the Central Government employees is commensurate to this requirement; and

(d) the names of State Governments which have revised the minimum wage for maintaining living standards of three consumption unit family above poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b): The poverty line estimate made by the Planning Commission is in terms of monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 181.5 in rural areas and Rs. 209.5 in urban areas at 1991-92 prices. This is the minimum consumption expenditure required to maintain a standard of life above poverty line, in terms of annual house-hold expenditure this is expressed as Rs.11060 in rural areas and Rs. 11850 in urban areas rounded off to Rs. 11000 and Rs. 11800 respectively. The poverty line for the household is based on average family size of 5.08 in rural areas and 4.71 in the urban areas derived from National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 43rd round (1987-88). The minimum consumption requirement for a three member family would be Rs. 6534 for rural areas and Rs.7542 for urban areas.

(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central Government as well as the State Governments are the appropriate government for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation